

AMENDMENT TO THE ABSTRACT

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please **amend** the Abstract as follows:

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~~The present invention discloses a~~ A method and system for implementing of Data Link Switching-like protocols within a high speed packet switching network environment. The invention relates to new access services for NBBS (Networking Broad Band Services) networks. A new access agent (implementing the DLSw Access Services) provides a dramatically simplified but comprehensive Data Link Switching Services across a wide area network and minimizes the latency to set up SNA paths across the network, while maximizing the efficiency of setting up these paths. ~~As a significant departure from traditional Data Link Switching Implementations, the~~ The invention does not require the implementation of a complex and large TCP/IP protocol stack within the Data Link Switching node. The Access Agent implementing the DLSw node makes intensive use of such NBBS facilities as the Spanning Tree with the use of internode functional addresses, for the exchange of the control information necessary to efficiently set up paths across the network between DLSw access agents. ~~Reliability is insured via NBBS facilities such as Non-Disruptive Path Switching (NDPS) and Rapid Transport Protocol (RTP) and a guaranteed as well as optionally a best effort service can be offered for the transport of SNA messages across the high speed packet switching network.~~
